



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC 20380

MCO 1540.32A
TDA-js
7 Sep 1982

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1540.32A W/CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: United States Marine Corps Landing Signal Officer (LSO)
Program

Ref: (a) LSO NATOPS Manual
(b) MCO P3500.14, Training and Readiness Manual,
Administration
(c) MCO P1200.7D, MOS Manual
(d) MCO P1300.8L
(e) MCO P1080.35D

Encl: (1) Message Request to Commence LSO Training (Sample)
(2) Letter of Nomination to Commence LSO Training
(Sample)
(3) LSO Status Report (Sample)

Report Required: LSO Status Report (Report Symbol
MC-1540-09), par. 6d

1. Purpose. To emphasize the need for USMC landing signal officers and provide instructions and policy for their training, assignment, and management.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1540.32.

3. Background

a. The capability of the Marine Corps to participate in amphibious operations/carrier deployments is significantly influenced by the presence of well-trained LSO's aboard the aircraft carriers involved in the operation. As a part of the Navy/Marine amphibious task force, the Marine Corps shares the responsibility of providing a proportionate number of naval aviators trained as LSO's. Because of the long, arduous, and costly period of training, naval aviators volunteering for LSO training/assignments must be highly motivated and career oriented. Compliance with instructions contained herein should ensure the Marine Corps maintains sufficient numbers of well-trained LSO's to meet Fleet Marine Force (FMF) requirements.

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b. A Marine liaison officer serves on the staff of the Navy Phase I LSO School at the Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida. Although assigned primary duty as an LSO instructor, he also serves in an advisory capacity to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes TDA, ASM, and MMOA) on LSO matters. Additionally, his responsibilities include monitoring of the Marine Corps LSO training program, coordinating assignments of Marine LSO's with the Navy, and providing information regarding the qualification of LSO's.

4. Policy

a. Within the Headquarters Marine Corps staff, coordination to ensure the successful functioning of the Landing Signal Officer Program rests primarily with the Aviation Manpower and Support Branch, Aviation Department (CMC Code ASM); Officer Assignment Branch, Manpower Department (CMC Code MMOA); and the Aviation Training Branch, Training Department (CMC Code TDA). The Aviation Manpower and Support Branch represents the Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation in matters pertaining to LSO selection and training. The Officer Assignment Branch ensures LSO personnel assets are proportionately distributed to subordinate commands. The Aviation Training Branch ensures training of LSO's is accomplished in accordance with reference (a) and this Order. The Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School functions in an advisory capacity to all three branches.

b. Since the FMF headquarters do not possess staff LSO billets, coordination of the LSO program in the FMF will be accomplished at the Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade level of command. The Commanding Generals, Fleet Marine Forces Atlantic and Pacific shall be information addresses on correspondence regarding LSO matters within their respective commands.

c. All Phase III training will be coordinated through the Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School.

d. Except for service graduates (SerGrads), Naval Air Training Command (NATC) graduates who are serving as NATC instructors prior to an FMF aviation tour, all prospective LSO's should complete combat capable training in accordance with reference (b) before commencement of LSO training. SerGrads, with the approval of the Chief, Naval Air Training Command (CNATRA), may undergo LSO training while assigned to the NATC as instructors.

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e. Upon completion of Navy Exchange Phase III LSO training, an LSO will normally be reassigned to the Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade which originally sponsored training for a minimum period of 2 years.

f. Designated LSO trainees shall not be transferred overseas until completion of Phase II training except as a member of a squadron/detachment participating in the unit rotation program.

g. Marine LSO's in the grade of major and above will normally not be assigned LSO duties unless functioning in a Marine Aircraft Wing LSO billet or assigned as the Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School.

h. The requirements for vertical/short takeoff/and landing (VSTOL) LSO training vary significantly from those set forth in reference (a) and this Order. VSTOL LSO training is therefore addressed in a separate instruction.

5. Eligibility. Marine naval aviators requesting LSO training shall meet the following prerequisites:

- a. Highly motivated, career-oriented naval aviator.
- b. Have completed combat capable training, (SerGrads are excepted from this prerequisite).
- c. Have 18 months time-on-station remaining when LSO training commences.
- d. Have submitted a request to commence LSO training prior to attaining 4 1/2 years of commissioned service.
- e. Be recommended by the Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade LSO responsible for training.

6. Training

a. As prescribed in reference (a), LSO training shall take place under the supervision of a designated training LSO. Training will normally occur in the phase sequence described in this paragraph. At the discretion of the supervisory LSO, the training phase sequence may be altered to meet operational requirements or to conform with Phase I LSO School convening dates. LSO training consists of the following three phases:

(1) Phase I

(a) Phase I training is conducted at the Navy Phase I LSO School. Appendix B of reference (a) describes the course syllabus.

(b) Prior to the commencement of LSO training within the FMF, a message requesting authorization to commence training will be sent to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes MMOA/TDA). See enclosure (1). Upon approval to commence training, the cognizant squadron commanding officer will initiate a letter of nomination to the Commander, Naval Air Pacific (COMNAVAIRPAC) (Code 311L) or the Commander, Naval Air Atlantic (COMNAVAIRLANT) (Code 312E) via the appropriate Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade level of command. See enclosure (2). Information copies will be provided the appropriate Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TDA).

(c) Upon completion of the Phase I 2-week course of instruction, the LSO trainee will be assigned MOS 7590 in accordance with reference (c). Phase I training must be completed prior to designation as a Phase III Squadron LSO (MOS 7594).

(2) Phase II

(a) Phase II training consists of day and night on-the-job controlling of aircraft during Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP) training. Additionally, the LSO trainee should be capable of conducting LSO ground training presentations.

(b) MOS 7593 shall be assigned upon successful completion of Phase II training.

(3) Phase III

(a) Phase III training consists of three levels of qualification; designation as a Squadron LSO, designation as a Wing LSO, and designation as a Training LSO.

1 Squadron LSO. This level of training reflects the individual's ability to satisfactorily control one or more type aircraft aboard ship in daylight conditions. The individual is also qualified to maintain and interpret LSO

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logs and records and to make recommendations to the commanding officer concerning individual pilot qualifications. MOS 7594 is assigned upon designation as a Squadron LSO.

2 Wing LSO. The second level of Phase III training culminates in designation as a Wing LSO. The individual must demonstrate an ability to control a majority of the carrier air wing aircraft in day/night, all weather, and various deck conditions without supervisory LSO assistance. Additionally, the individual must have the knowledge/ability to function as an LSO watch team supervisor. The Wing LSO qualification is extremely critical to the Marine Corps LSO training program. Until completion of this stage of training, the LSO lacks the expertise to train other LSO's.

3 Training LSO. Successful accomplishment of the third level of training results in designation as a Training LSO. This designation reflects the individual's demonstrated ability to administer, instruct, and supervise in type carrier qualification.

b. In accordance with reference (a), the decision to recommend initial LSO designation or upgrading rests solely with the cognizant senior qualified LSO. This recommendation will be submitted in writing to the LSO's commanding officer. A letter will then be submitted by the commanding officer, with the recommendation as an enclosure, to COMNAVAIRPAC (Code 311L) or COMNAVAIRLANT (Code 312E), as appropriate, requesting designation. Letters requesting designation will be routed via the appropriate Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade with information copies provided to the appropriate Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force; the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TDA); and the Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School, Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Florida 32215.

c. LSO designations approved by the type commander will be entered in the aviator's logbook and Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Program (NATOPS) training jacket.

* d. LSO Status Report. To ensure cognizant staff agencies/personnel are informed of the current status of LSO qualification/training, Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade shall submit a semiannually report (Report Symbol MC-1540-09) as of 15 January and 15 July for the preceding 6 months. The format of enclosure (3) shall be utilized under a cover letter addressed to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TDA) with information copies to the appropriate Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force and the

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Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School. The Marine Liaison Officer at the LSO Phase I School will submit a report covering Marine LSO's assigned to either the Navy Exchange Program or the NATC.

7. Navy Phase III LSO Training Program

a. If the Marine LSO Program is to remain viable, a sufficient number of Phase III designated Wing and Training LSO's must be available to provide the required instruction to LSO trainees. Within the Marine Corps, the opportunity normally does not exist to qualify a sufficient number of Wing and Training LSO's. Therefore, a Navy Phase III LSO Training Program has been established between the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

b. This program provides for LSO training of four Marine Corps officers in the grades of first lieutenant/captain. Normally these officers will be assigned from FMFPac or FMFLant although an assignment directly from the NATC or other command may occur. The assignment of Marine officers to Phase III training under this program should occur approximately 5 months prior to the departure of a specific carrier to which assignment is anticipated. Such assignment will permit participation in the carrier air wings' predeparture workup period. After completion of Phase III LSO training, the officer will normally be assigned to an LSO billet for a minimum period of 2 years.

c. The Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School will coordinate with appropriate Navy and Marine commands/staff agencies to ensure qualified officers are selected/assigned to Phase III LSO training. Selection of officers to participate in Phase III LSO training rests with the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code ASM). After completion of training, assignment to commands requiring Phase III trained LSO's is the prerogative of the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code MMOA).

d. Marine officers participating in the program who fulfill the requirements of reference (d) will receive an adjusted Date Arrived United States/Dependents Restricted (DAUS).

8. Marine Corps LSO Requirements

a. Table 1 depicts the minimum Marine Corps LSO staffing/training requirements.

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TABLE 1
Minimum LSO Staffing/Training Requirements

<u>Organization</u>	<u>LSO</u>	
	<u>#-Designation</u>	<u># In Training</u>
Marine Aircraft Wing1/	1 Trng(PhIII)	NA
Brigade1/	1 Trng(PhIII)	NA
LSO School	1 Trng(PhIII)	NA
Marine Aircraft		
Group (F/W)	1 Wing(PhIII)	NA
VMA/VMFA/VMA(AW)Sqdn2/	1 Sqdn(PhIII)	2
VMA/VMFA/VMA(AW)Sqdn3/	1 (PhII)	1
VMAQ/VMFP3/	1 Wing(PhIII)	2
VMAQ/VMFPDet2/	1 Sqdn(PhIII) or	1
VMAT/VMAT(AQ)/VMFAT	1 (PhII)	1

NOTES:

- 1/ Individuals assigned to an LSO billet will not simultaneously be assigned to another LSO billet in an additional duty status. An exception to this policy is that the First Marine Brigade LSO may also function as the Marine Aircraft Group-24 LSO.
- 2/ Aboard ship.
- 3/ Ashore.

b. Commands capable of training additional LSO's are encouraged to do so.

c. The Commanding General, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing is authorized to make such staffing/training deviations as are considered appropriate to meet Reserve requirements.

9. LSO Career Termination

a. The responsibility for ensuring satisfactory progress in attaining LSO designation (Phase II) rests primarily with the Marine Aircraft Wing/First Marine Brigade LSO. Normally, it is expected Phase II designation will occur within 9 months of the training commencement date. Phase III designation is subject to carrier training opportunities but a Phase III Wing LSO designation is normally anticipated within 2 years of commencement of Phase III training.

b. If satisfactory progress is not occurring during LSO training, the appropriate training supervisor shall initiate correspondence to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes MMOA/TDA) requesting termination of training. The appropriate FMF commanding general and the Marine Liaison Officer at the Navy Phase I LSO School shall be information addressees on this correspondence.

c. The Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes MMOA/TDA) approval of a request to terminate LSO training will remove the subject officer from the LSO program restricted assignment status. Qualified Phase II officers may be retained in their current LSO billets until normal tour completion at the discretion of their parent command.

d. Requests for voluntary release from the LSO program should be submitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes MMOA/TDA).

10. Action

a. Commanding Generals, Marine Aircraft Wings/Commanding General, First Marine Brigade

(1) Assign LSO's/LSO trainees in accordance with the staffing requirements of paragraph 8.

(2) Ensure LSO training is conducted in accordance with reference (a) and this Order.

(3) Ensure the submission of LSO correspondence in accordance with reference (e) and this Order.

b. Marine Liaison Officer, Navy Phase I LSO School

(1) Advise the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Codes ASM, MMOA, and TDA) on matters pertaining to LSO administration, assignment, and training.

(2) Maintain liaison with Navy and Marine commands concerned with LSO matters.

(3) Coordinate the training of Marine Phase III LSO's.

(4) As directed, represent Headquarters Marine Corps at LSO conferences/meetings.

(5) Recommend changes to ensure the currency and accuracy of this Order.

11. Funding. Costs attributable to the LSO program will be borne by the parent unit except for the following:

a. Per diem costs for the Navy Phase I LSO School Marine Liaison Officer visits to Marine commands in connection with Marine LSO training shall be budgeted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TDA).

b. Costs associated with the PCS movement of Marine officers involved in the Navy LSO training program will be budgeted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code FDB).

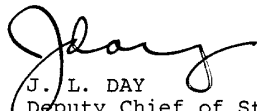
c. Costs associated with the Phase I LSO training of up to 10 SerGrads annually will be budgeted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TPI).

12. Quotas to LSO Phase I School

a. FMF unit commanders will request quotas in accordance with reference (a).

b. SerGrad quotas will be requested from the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code TPI) and forwarded via the appropriate Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG).

13. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.


J. L. DAY
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Training

DISTRIBUTION: L12

Copy to: 7000016, 037, 119/8145001/CNO (OP-59)/
COMNAVAIRLANT (Code 312E)/COMNAVAIRPAC
(Code 311L)/Navy Phase I LSO School (1)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC 20380


MCO 1540.32A Ch 1
TDA4209
4 Apr 1986

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1540.32A Ch 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: United States Marine Corps Landing Signal Officer (LSO)
Program

1. Purpose. To direct pen changes to the basic Order.
2. Action. In the basic Order, paragraph 6d, fourth line change "quarterly" to "semiannually." In the fifth line change "15 January, 15 April, 15 July, and 15 October" to "15 January and 15 July."


E. T. COOK, JR.
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Training

DISTRIBUTION: L12

Copy to: 7000016, 119/8145001/CNO (OP-59)/
COMNAVAIRLANT (Code 312E)/COMNAVAIRPAC
(Code 311L)/Navy Phase I LSO School (1)

PCN 102 018201 01

MCO 1540.32A
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MESSAGE REQUEST TO COMMENCE LSO TRAINING

(SAMPLE)

FROM: CG (WING/BRIGADE)

TO: CMC WASHINGTON DC

INFO: CG FMFLANT

CG FMFPAC

LSO SCHOOL NAS CECIL FIELD FL

UNCLAS //N01540//

SUBJ: LANDING SIGNAL OFFICER (LSO) TRAINING

A. MCO 1540.32A

1. CMC FOR CODES MMOA, TDA, AND ASM.

2. REQUEST FNO BE DESIG TO COMMENCE LSO TRNG IAW REF.

IF DESIG, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THIS OFFICER WILL NOT BE REASSIGNED

FROM THIS CMD UNTIL COMP PHASE I AND II TRNG UNDER GUIDELINES

OF REF.

A. NAME, GRADE, SSN/MOS

B. DATE OF RANK

C. SQUADRON ASSIGNED/DATE REPORTED

D. TOTAL FLT HRS/JET HRS/IN TYPE HRS

E. TOTAL CARRIER LANDINGS DAY/NIGHT

F. BRIEF RESUME OF OFFICER'S EXPERIENCE AND

QUALIFICATIONS.

3. REMARKS, IF APPLICABLE.

ENCLOSURE (1)

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LETTER OF NOMINATION TO COMMENCE LSO TRAINING
(SAMPLE)

From: Commanding Officer, Squadron _____
To: Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic (Code 312E) or
Commander, Naval Air Forces, Pacific (Code 311L) as
appropriate
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group
(2) Commanding General, Marine Aircraft Wing or
Commanding General, First Marine Brigade
Subj: Letter of Nomination for Landing Signal Officer (LSO)
Training
Ref: (a) NATOPS Landing Signal Officer Manual
(b) MCO 1540.32A

1. In accordance with the references (a) and (b), request
approval for the following officer to commence LSO training:

- a. Name, grade, SSN, MOS, DOR
- b. First/second tour in FMF
- c. Date reporting/reported to squadron and rotation date.
- d. Total flight hours/jet hours
- e. Total carrier landings day/night by type aircraft
- f. Brief resume of nominee's experience and
qualification.

Copy to:
CMC (Code TDA)
CG, FMFLant or CG, FMFPac
Navy Phase I LSO School (ATTN: MLO)

ENCLOSURE (2)

SAMPLE

Report Symbol MC-1540-09

Period of Report (month) to (month) 19(82)

[illegible]

General Remarks:

Notes:

N - nearly qualified
Q - qualified

qualified

b - satisfactory progress
t - under training

T - under training